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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *May* the 9th, 1754.

Ne ſcuticâ dignum horribili ſectêre flagello. HOR.

I FLATTER myſelf it muſt have been frequently remarked, that I have hitherto executed the office I have undertaken without any of that harſhneſs which may deſerve the name of ſatire, but on the contrary, with that gentle and good-humoured ridicule, which rather indicates the wiſhes of paternal tenderneſs, than the dictates of magiſterial authority. My edicts carry with them nothing penal. After I have ſpent five pa-

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ges out of fix to ſhew that the ladies disfigure their perſons, and the gentlemen their parks and gardens, by too much art, I make no other concluſion than by coolly informing them, that each would be more beautiful, if nature was leſs diſguiſed.

A CERTAIN great traveller, happening to take Florence in one of his tours, was much careſſed and admired by the Great Duke. The variety of countries he had ſeen, and his vivacity in deſcribing the cuſtoms, manners, and characters of their inhabitants, rendered him highly entertaining. But it happened a little unfortunately that he had taken a fancy to adopt one of the faſhions of the eaſt, that of wearing whiſkers; which he did in the fulleſt and largeſt extent of the mode. The Great Duke could by no means reliſh this faſhion; and as conſtantly as he finiſhed his ſecond bottle, his diſguſt would break out, though never with greater harſhneſs than in the following words. "Signor Gi-"ramondo, I am not duke of Tuſcany while you wear "thoſe whiſkers." In like manner I ſay, I am not Adam Fitz-Adam while the ladies wear ſuch enormous hoops, ſuch ſhort petticoats, and ſuch vaſt patches near the left eye; or while gentlemen ruin their fortunes and conſtitutions by play, or deform the face of nature by the fopperies of art.

THE moderation of the duke of Tuſcany, who, with the help of a pair of ſciſſars, might ſo eaſily have removed the object which at once offended and degraded him, is greatly to be preferred to the tyranny of Procruſtes, whoſe delicate eye for proportion was apt to take ſuch offence at an over-grown perſon, that he would order him to be ſhortened to the juſt ſtandard, by cutting off his feet. But a tyrannical ſyſtem cannot be laſting: and violent meaſures muſt deſtroy that harmony

mony which I am deſirous ſhould long ſubſiſt between me and thoſe whom I have undertaken to govern, even were it probable that I could carry ſuch meaſures into execution. But nothing expoſes weakneſs ſo much as threats which we are not able to enforce. It is told us in the Acts "that forty of the Jews bound themſelves "under a curſe, that they would neither eat nor drink "till they had killed Paul." We hear no more of thoſe Jews, though the apoſtle ſurvived their menaces. I flatter myſelf that I have no leſs zeal for the aboliſhing of folly and falſe taſte; yet I am ſo far from uttering any ſuch threats, that I very frankly confeſs I intend to eat and drink as heartily as if there was no ſuch thing as folly remaining in the world. My enemies, indeed, have been pleaſed to throw out, that it is owing to my deſire of continuing to gratify thoſe appetites, that I have not long ago entirely ſuppreſſed all folly whatſoever. They make no ſcruple of aſſerting, that there would not have been ſo much as a patch, pompon, or Chineſe rail remaining amongſt us, if I had not thought proper to borrow a piece of policy from the rat-catchers, who ſuffer a ſmall part of the vermin to eſcape, that their trade may not be at an end. But I muſt take the liberty of acquainting theſe gentlemen, that they know as little of me, as of human nature: the chace after folly being like hunting a witch; if you run her down in one ſhape, ſhe ſtarts up in another; ſo that there is no manner of danger that the game will be deſtroyed. And I moſt ſolemnly declare, that wherever I have ſeen a beautiful face, or a fine garden, very groſsly deformed by injudicious attempts at amendment, I have laboured with the greateſt earn-

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eſtneſs to effect a reformation. But where the conduct of my pupils, though ſometimes faulty in itſelf, has been harmleſs in it's conſequences, I have conſtantly forborn, and will as conſtantly forbear, an officious reprehenſion of it, however diſagreeable ſuch forbearance may appear in the eyes of theſe gentlemen.

It is upon this plan that I have ſuppreſſed innumerable complaints from ſplenetic and ill-humoured correſpondents: as a ſpecimen of which complaints, I ſhall lay before my readers the beginnings of ſome of their letters.

SIR,

I AM greatly offended at the inconſiſtent behaviour of a lady of my acquaintance. You ſee her in the morning at St. James's church, and in the evening at the play-houſe in Drury-lane. One would think that either religion ſhould drive plays out of her head, or plays religion. Pray, Mr. Fitz-Adam, tell her how abſurd——

SIR,

I TROUBLE you with this letter to make my complaints of a very great evil, and to deſire your animadverſions upon it. I returned yeſterday from a month's viſit to a family in the country, where, in every particular but one, we paſſed our time as became reaſonable beings. When the weather was good we walked abroad; when bad, we amuſed ourſelves within doors either with entertaining converſation, or inſtructive books. But it was the cuſtom of the family (though in all other reſpects very worthy people) conſtantly to play at cards for a whole hour before ſupper. Surely, Mr. Fitz-Adam, this method of killing time——

SIR,

SIR,

I AM ſhocked at the indecency of the modern head-dreſs. Do the ladies intend to lay aſide all modeſty and go naked?——

THIS is the manner in which undiſtinguiſhing zeal treats things that are in themſelves indifferent: for is it not matter of abſolute indifference whether a lady wears on her head a becoming ornament of clean lace, or her own hair? Or if there be any preference, would it not be ſhewn both from nature and experience to be on the ſide of the hair?

Num tu, quæ tenuit dives Achæmenes,
Aut pinguis Phrygiæ Mygdonias opes
Permutare velis crine Licyniæ?

HORACE, we ſee, prefers a beautiful head of hair to the riches of a king. But I cannot help giving it as my opinion, that Licynia's hair flowed in natural ringlets, without being tortured by irons, or confined by innumerable pins. Yet though I have ſeen with patience the cap diminiſhing to the ſize of a patch, I have not with the ſame unconcern obſerved the patch enlarging itſelf to the ſize of a cap. It is with great ſorrow that I already ſee it in poſſeſſion of that beautiful maſs of blue which borders upon the eye. Should it encreaſe on the ſide of that exquiſite feature, what an eclipſe have we to dread! But ſurely it is to be hoped the ladies will not give up that place to a plaiſter, which the brighteſt jewel in the univerſe would want luſtre to ſupply.